

July 13, 2020

To: Interested media

ICYMI: Here is a rapid-fire update on what happened last week in Turkish economic, trade and business news.

- Turkey's Foreign Minister announced [the UK and Turkey are "very close" to signing a free trade agreement](#) following his visit to London and meeting with Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
- Turkey and Latvia agreed to [boost bilateral trade to \\$1 billion](#) after the trade ministries held the First Term Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) virtual meeting last week. The current bilateral trade volume is \$293 million.
- Turkey's Manufacturing Industry Export Climate Index, the leading indicator measuring the activity of the manufacturing sector in main export markets, [increased to 47.5 in June](#). A full recovery in foreign sales is expected in the second half of the year.
- Turkey saw a [986% year-on-year growth in PPE exports](#) in the first 6 months of 2020, reaching a record of \$573.4 million. Turkish companies accelerated production to meet global demand amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- Turkey's tourism capital, Antalya, is starting its travel season, welcoming [over 27,000 visitors in the first week of July](#). Tourism-related businesses must follow all preparations and meet guidelines in line with the Safe Tourism Certification program launched by the Foreign, Culture and Tourism and Transportation ministries.

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